(c) Does not arise.

(d) With a view to decentralise the submission of passport applications, this Ministry has set up District Passport Cells (DPCs) in several districts in almost all the states. These DPCs function from the office of the District Magistrate or Superintendent of Police as per discretion/ decision of the State Government. The DPCs receive the passport applications and after scrutinising them *and having the police verification in respect of the applicant carried out* forward the applications to the concerned Passport Office for further processing and issuance of passports. The opening of DPCs has not only taken the passport services closer to the public but also resulted in reducing the time taken for issuance of the Police Verification Reports. Six DPCs are already functional in the state of Maharashtra viz Dadar, Daman, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Aurangabad and Beed. Recently, to ease congestion in RPO Mumbai, four DPCs have been opened in Mumbai city at Bandra, Chembur, Crawford Market and Kandivili w.e.f. 04.04.2005.

Promotion of SSIs by KVIC

*498. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission has chalked out any scheme for promotion and development of small scale industries in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the necessary steps being taken by Government in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a), (b) and (d) Under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) Act, 1956, the KVIC is responsible for promoting and developing village industries in rural areas, including small towns with population up to 20,000.

The Government through the KVIC, has been implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) since 1 April 1995, for the promotion and development of village industries along with generation of employment opportunities in the rural areas. The REGP is a credit-linked-

subsidy programme where the credit is provided by the banks and subsidy by the Government for setting up village industries. In addition, the KVIC implements various other schemes for the development of village industries, *viz.*, Rural Industries Service Centres (RISCs), Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP), Science and Technology programme, etc.

The State-wise details of village industry units set up and employment generated under the REGP since 1 April, 1995 to 31 March, 2004 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Statewise details of village industry units set up and employment generated under REGP since 1 April 1995 to 31 March 2004

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	Village industry Units set up (number)	Employment generated (number of persons)
1	Andhra Pradesh	12870	202358
2	Arunachal Pradesh	379	5117
3	Assam	2207	30619
4	Bihar	846	10715
5	Goa	2301	20514
6	Gujarat	1098	8067
7	Haryana	5109	103340
8	Himachal Pradesh	1905	45000
9	Jammu & Kashmir	6634	50156
10	Karnataka	13159	156552
11	Kerala	8427	134500
12	Madhya Pradesh	18523	177652
13	Maharashtra	19911	185694
14	Manipur	738	14442
15	Meghalaya	3147	25017

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	Village industry Units set up (number)	Employment generated (number of persons)
16	Mizoram	908	13520
17	Nagaland	4790	89863
18	Orissa	3166	30558
19	Punjab	9603	116988
20	Rajasthan	25897	275209
21	Sikkim	147	2285
22	Tamil Nadu	5816	67280
23	Tripura	433	11173
24	Uttar Pradesh	15515	267971
25	West Bengal	17223	133897
26	Andaman & Nicobar	416	2625
27	Chandigarh	148	1107
28	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	15	303
29	Delhi	219	4537
30	Lakshadweep	10	173
31	Pondicherry	949	11975
32	Chhattisgarh	1131	31989
33	Jharkhand	818	14711
34	Uttaranchal	1794	29303
	TOTAL	**186252**	**2275210**

Indo Pak confidence building measures

*499. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his recent visit to Islamabad, he made it clear to Pakistan Government that the Composite Dialogue and Confidence Building Measures, like understanding on Missile Tests, economic and trade relations and narcotics Control Measures, could be sustained only in an atmosphere free from terrorism and across border violence; and